
FOUNDATION FOR LOUISIANA STUDENTS

Regular Board Meeting Minutes

3113 Valley Creek Drive

Baton Rouge, LA

First Floor Conference Room

May 20, 2025

IN COMPLIANCE WITH LOUISIANA OPEN MEETINGS LAW

I. OPENING ITEMS

- A. Board President Holliday called the meeting to order at 5:10 pm.
- B. Board President Holliday requested a roll call vote. The following Directors through a voice vote were recorded as present: Mr. John Price, Ms. Grace Anderson, Mr. Thomas Nealsson, Dr. Hala Esmail, Dr. James Llorens, Ms. Linda Holliday, and Ex-officio member – Dr. Quentina Timoll.

Guests present: Mr. Michael Adams, Ms. Melissa Grand, Ms. Krystle Dabney, Ms. Eugenia Cardozo, Mr. Joe Keeney, Ms. Traci Payne, Mr. Gary Dunn, Mr. Matt Viguerie, Mr. Michael Tran, and Ms. Darah Husser.

Conference Room & Online Guests: See attached list.

- C. On motion by Director Price, seconded by Director Anderson, to approve the Regular Board meeting agenda for May 20, 2025. The motion passed through a voice vote with Directors Price, Anderson, Nealsson, Esmail, Llorens, and Holliday voting in favor. A request by the committee for public comment was made. No public comment.

II. ROUTINE BUSINESS

- A. Approval of Minutes from the April 29, 2025 Regular Board meeting. On motion by Director Nealsson and seconded by Director Anderson, to approve the Regular Board meeting minutes for April 29, 2025. The motion passed through a voice vote with Directors Price, Anderson, Nealsson, Llorens, and Holliday voting in favor. Director Esmail abstained. A request by the committee for public comment was made. No public comment.

III. ORAL REPORTS

- A. Dr. Quentina Timoll presented the Superintendent's Report, highlighting student achievements and activities, staff accomplishments and professional development, enrollment and admissions updates, as well as upcoming events. She announced that the official last day of school for students is May 22, with teachers concluding the academic year on June 6. Dr. Timoll also

recognized kindergarten teacher Stacy Haase as May's Employee of the Month, commending her leadership and dedication in organizing the kindergarten graduation. LEAP assessment participation showed an increase from the previous year, with 96.8% participation among high school students and 92.56% among students in grades 3–8. University View Academy currently has 3,494 active students, with 376 applications provisionally accepted and 680 seats still available. No vote was taken.

- A. Board President Holliday led the Discussion of the Financial Report for April 2025 with Mr. Joe Keeney. Mr. Keeney reported on University View Academy's Budget vs. Actuals for the period ending on April 30, 2025. For this period, revenues came in at a total of \$3.9 million, expenditures came in at a total of \$3.7 million. Year to date net surplus came in at a total of \$5 million and AFR adjusted surplus is \$25.6 million. Ms. Keeney reviewed the balance sheet for the period ending on April 30, 2025 to include total assets and liabilities. Assets came in at a total of \$45.6 million and liabilities came in at a total of \$853,244. No vote was taken.
- B. Board President Holliday presented the Finance Committee Report. Board President Holliday reported that the Finance Committee recommended approval/available funds for the Fiscal Year 2026 Budget. Additionally, the committee deferred decisions regarding the Assessment and Learning Center renovation and the fencing project to the full board for further discussion. No vote was taken.
- C. Governance Committee Chair Thomas Nealsson reported that the Governance Committee Report has nothing to report. No vote was taken.
- D. Ms. Eugenia Cardozo provided a status update on current facility projects and provided a list of summer projects.
 - 1. Lynx Den: Located at 4715 Bennington Avenue, the Lynx Den project is nearing completion, with the parking lot and punch list work 99% finished. The project was originally budgeted at \$1,679,000, but the amount paid to date has reached \$1,754,693.30, slightly exceeding the initial budget.
 - 2. Curriculum Building: At 3112 Valley Creek Drive, renovations at the Curriculum Center are progressing smoothly and are expected to be completed within the next 30 days. Notably, the project has required no change orders. The estimated budget stands at \$115,000, with the current contract amount totaling \$112,812.
 - 3. Assessment and Learning Center: Renovation plans for the Assessment and Learning Center, located at 4838 Bennington Avenue, have been finalized, and a final bid will be presented for approval. The estimated budget for this project is \$90,000, with \$9,500 paid to date.

Board President Holliday noted that the bid prices received for this project vary significantly.

The Board agreed that establishing a committee to oversee facilities management would be beneficial, given the growth in real estate and property holdings. This approach would enhance project oversight and ensure greater transparency and involvement for the full board. Board President Holliday also requested that the Board be invited to the weekly facilities meetings.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Discussion and approval of Fiscal Year 2026 Budget. The Board was presented with the Fiscal Year 2026 budget, along with a detailed list of all contracts included in the budget that exceed \$100,000. Dr. Quentina Timoll noted that the budget was presented at the April Board meeting and there have been no changes. Mr. Joe Keeney reported that the total projected revenue for FY 2026 is \$48.7 million, reflecting a decrease from the previous year primarily due to the expiration of federal ESSER funding, which accounted for a \$2 million reduction. Despite this decrease, the overall structure of the budget remains largely consistent with the prior year. The budget includes a cost-of-living adjustment for staff, with \$200,000 allocated to provide a 2% salary increase across the board. The Board also discussed the transition from a step pay system to a performance-based compensation model, following the implementation of a \$10,000 base salary increase for staff.

On motion by Director Price and seconded by Director Anderson to approve the Fiscal Year 2026 Budget as presented. The motion passed through a voice vote with Directors Price, Anderson, Nealsson, Esmail, Llorens, and Holliday voting in favor. A request by the committee for public comment was made. No public comment.

- A. Discussion and Approval of Assessment and Learning Center Renovation/Addition Project. Board President Holliday facilitated the discussion regarding the renovation and addition project for the Assessment and Learning Center, joined by Mr. Gary Dunn and Mr. Matt Viguerie of GD Architecture, LLC. The Board expressed significant concern over the wide range of bid proposals, which varied from \$82,000 to \$243,000. Specific concerns were raised regarding contractor performance and credibility, including Genesis 360's incomplete work on current projects and a lien associated with Sienna Construction. The Board agreed that the current bids should be rejected and the project should be re-bid to allow for greater transparency and broader participation. The Board agreed to reject the submitted bids and reopen the bidding process, inviting the original five bidders as well as any new qualified contractors. The Board emphasized the need for clear, itemized proposals in future bids to ensure transparency, minimize hidden costs, and allow for fair and accurate evaluation. The matter will be revisited at the June meeting for further action and oversight.

On motion by Director Price and seconded by Director Anderson reject the bids and ask for rebid with itemized list. The motion passed through a voice vote with Directors Price, Anderson, Nealsson, Esmail, Llorens, and Holliday voting in favor. A request by the committee for public comment was made. No public comment.

- A. Discussion and approval of Fencing Project. Board President Holliday led the discussion on the proposed fencing project in collaboration with Mr. Gary Dunn and Mr. Matt Viguerie of GD Architecture, LLC. She noted that the scope of the project has expanded significantly beyond its original concept, now encompassing additional areas and features not initially anticipated. In light of this growth, the Board suggested that the Facilities Committee become more actively involved to support informed decision-making and provide greater oversight. Director Price emphasized that, despite the increased cost, the fencing is essential for ensuring the safety and security of the campus. He added that further cost reductions could compromise both the functionality and aesthetic quality of the project. Mr. Dunn clarified that the current figures reflect only the project specifications and estimated bid pricing; the project will still go out to formal bid and will return to the Board for final approval once actual costs are determined.

On motion by Director Nealsson and seconded by Director Anderson to approve the specs for the Fencing Project. The motion passed through a voice vote with Directors Price, Anderson, Nealsson, Esmail, Llorens, and Holliday voting in favor. A request by the committee for public comment was made. No public comment.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. UVA Graduation Date: May 24, 2025
- B. Board Retreat: June 14, 2025
- C. June Board Meeting: June 24, 2025
- D. National Charter School Conference: June 29-July 2, 2025

VI. CLOSING ITEMS

- A. On motion by Director Anderson, seconded by Director Llorens, and carried to unanimously adjourn the meeting at 6:59 pm. The motion passed through a voice vote with Directors Anderson, Nealsson, Esmail, Llorens, and Holliday voting in favor. Director Price declined.

CONFERENCE ROOM & ONLINE GUESTS:

FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	LOCATION
------------	-----------	----------

		Conference Room
50 individuals logged in to attend the meeting online.		